

REMARKS

Claims 19-35 are pending in the application. Claims 19, 25, and 31 are objected to and have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 19, 23, 23-27, 31 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Madduri.

Claims 20, 28, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Madduri in view of Seagars et al.

Claims 21, 22, 29, 30, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Madduri in view of Folwell et al.

The Madduri reference issued November 7, 2000 from an application filed March 4, 1998. Attached hereto is a declaration of patent attorney Thomas A. Gallagher establishing that the present invention was conceived prior to the filing date of the Madduri reference and that the applicants were diligent in reducing the invention to practice from prior to March 4, 1998 to the filing date of the application (April 22, 1998). Thus, the Madduri reference has effectively been removed as a prior art reference and therefore all outstanding rejections have been overcome.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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